Improvement of Villages.

CIRCULAR.

ORDER NO. L. 8875-82—ML. 308-29-39, DATED 6TH JUNE 1930.

Instances have come to the notice of Government that their instructions about the improvement of villages have not been carried out and that several villages are therefore in a badly neglected condition. Government desire that Amildars should henceforth pay special attention to this item of their work. They should halt in select villages for a few days every week, divide the village into blocks, each block being placed under a committee looking after its lighting, drainage, sanitation, etc., and get the committees to evince special interest in the improvement of their respective blocks by means of local labour. The services of Economic Lecturers and other officers should be utilised for the purpose of persuading the people to look to the tidying up of their houses and surroundings and to lead healthy lives. Government look to the Deputy Commissioners of Districts to see that this important matter receives the fullest possible attention of their subordinate revenue authorities.

By Order,
R. RANGA RAO,
General Secretary to Government.

Administration of Panchayet Funds.

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No. C. 5704—29-30, dated 25th March 1930, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, submitting proposals as to the measures to be adopted for the prompt collection of Village Panchayet taxes and the safeguards to be introduced for the proper administration of Panchayet Funds.

ORDER NO. L. 8835-45—V. P. 97-29-2, DATED 5TH JUNE 1930.

Collection of Taxes.—It is reported that Deputy Commissioners are generally agreeable to the employment of Shanbhogs and Patels for collection of Village Panchayet taxes. This may be tried wherever possible. In villages in which the collection work is done under the supervision of the Chairman, the Revenue Commissioner proposes that the procedure prescribed in the existing rules may be followed, while in villages where the collection is entrusted to Patels and Shanbhogs the forms of Khate and Kirdi appended to this order may be maintained by the Shanbhog. This is approved.

2. *Assessment Register.*—In order to enable the village officers to promptly demand the amounts due to the Panchayets, the Revenue Commissioner suggests the following procedure:—

(1) A copy of the Assessment Register (only Columns 1 to 9) should be given by the Village Panchayet to the Amildar of the Taluk at the time of Dittam Jamabandy or before the end of January in any case. The Amildar should forward this, through the Revenue Inspector, to the Shanbhog of the village concerned.

(2) On the basis of this copy, the Shanbhog should prepare the Khate in the prescribed form (Appendix A) which will be the basis for collection by the Patel.

(3) The Patel should be provided with receipt books, in the form appended (App. C) which will be in triplicate.

(4) The collections made should be entered in the Kirdi (App. B) by the Shanbhog and should be credited direct to the Village Panchayet Savings Bank Account in the Treasury at the end of each month.

(5) At the end of the each month, a copy of the Kirdi, with copy of the receipts issued by the Patel during the month, should be forwarded by the Shanbhog to the Village Panchayet Chairman, and the same reported to the Amildar for information. The Village Panchayet Chairman should make necessary entries in his Day Book and Assessment Register. The entry in the Day Book should be made in red ink to indicate that the collection was made by the Village Officers and not by him.

(6) The Revenue Inspector should check the Khates and Kirdis during the collection season and at other times, whenever he visits the village, as is done in the case of Land Revenue dues, to satisfy himself that proper steps are being taken. The Amildar should also exercise a similar check.

These proposals of the Revenue Commissioner are approved with the modification that the copy of the Kirdi may be submitted by the Shanbhog to the Amildar who may forward it to the Chairman after he has satisfied himself that the collections made were duly remitted to the Treasury.

3. *Withdrawal of Panchayet Fund.*—The Revenue Commissioner reports that with regard to the countersignature of withdrawal forms by Amildars before payments are made in the Treasury, the opinions of the Deputy Commissioners are divided and he considers that the system of countersignature is not necessary in view of the ample scope existing to check any tendency to defraud or misappropriate by frequent inspections and supervision. He suggests that withdrawal forms should be accompanied by memorandums showing clearly the purpose of the expenditure together with a copy of the resolution of the Panchayet. This is approved with the modification that a copy of the resolution of the Panchayet may be attached to the withdrawal form only when the expenditure requires the approval of the Panchayet and that the Treasury which pays the money should forward to the Amildar concerned for information without delay the memoranda accompanying the vouchers so that irregular withdrawals may be noticed in the Taluk Office and suitable action taken in proper time.

4. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to submit draft amendments to the rules to give effect to this order.

5. The Superintendent, Government Stationery, is requested to supply the forms prescribed in Appendices A, B, C, on indents received from the Deputy Commissioners, and these forms may be supplied to the village officers free of cost.

R. RANGA RAO,
General Secretary to Government.